



Mayor Greg Nickels **Budget**²⁰⁰³⁻⁰⁴

"Making a difference in people's lives."



STRENGTHENING NEIGHBORHOOD-BASED POLICE SERVICES

Mayor Greg Nickels understands protecting the public is his job and from the day he took office, he pledged to work everyday to ensure our city is safe. The mayor views **public safety as the most important basic service** a city can provide. Current economic conditions demand the Seattle Police Department (SPD) operate leaner and more efficiently.

The mayor will not allow budget problems to get in the way of improving public safety and accountability. The mayor's 2003-2004 budget will **make smart choices** and **strengthen basic city services, particularly public safety**. SPD will move to an organizational model that places neighborhood-based police services at its core and allows the department the greatest flexibility in managing public safety.

BACKGROUND

The Seattle Police Department has a clear and straightforward mission that touches each and every one of Seattle's residents:

- prevent crime;
- enforce laws; and
- support public safety.

SPD currently operates within a framework that divides the city into four geographical areas called "precincts." These precincts define north, south, east and west patrol areas, with a police station currently in each. A new station, being built in Southwest Seattle, opens for service in 2003. Over the years, the Seattle Police Department has increased its number of specialized units at the expense of resources in the precincts.

THE GOAL: INCREASED POLICE SERVICES AND ACCOUNTABILITY AT THE NEIGHBORHOOD LEVEL

How this will be accomplished

- **Precinct captains**, will be **more accountable to the people** who work and reside within each precinct. They will be the "chief of police" in their areas of responsibility. They will hold quarterly public meetings to fully understand what these needs are. The first quarterly meeting will take place on October 29.
- The "long missing" Community Police Team **Sergeants** will be restored to each precinct. This is the person who will coordinate with the neighborhoods to solve long term problems.
- Detectives who reported to Headquarters will now answer to the **Precinct Captain** so that a close linkage will be developed between the neighborhoods and the solving of crimes.
- The mayor has restored funding for **Crime Prevention and Preparedness Coordinators**. Coordinators will be assigned to each Precinct to provide information and training on not only how to prevent crime and protect property but also train citizens and businesses in disaster preparedness.
- **Specialty squads** in gangs, vice and narcotics will be streamlined with officers transferred to the precincts to enhance neighborhood-based 911 response and proactive enforcement efforts of the Anti Crime Teams. This will provide more resources directly to the precincts.
- The mayor has also directed **other city resources**, such as Parks and Recreation and the Department of Neighborhoods, to support SPD in expanded community partnerships.

